

# CARJACKING

## Protect Yourself and Your Car

- Look in and around your car before unlocking it.
- Know where you are going and how to get there. Call ahead for directions, and map out a route.
- Keep your doors locked and the windows rolled up to keep thieves from reaching inside your car.
- Your life is more valuable than your money or your car. If you are approached by someone with a weapon, don't resist, hand over your wallet, purse or keys and get out of the car.
- When pulling up behind another vehicle at a red light or stop sign, leave enough space in front of you for an emergency escape if needed.
- If your car is bumped from behind and you do not feel safe stopping and getting out, motion to the driver and drive to the nearest police or fire station.
- If stopping to use a pay phone or to get gas, park in a well lighted area where an attendant or other drivers can see you.



- When dropping off passengers at their cars, make sure they are in their cars and safely on their way before leaving.
- Check your rearview mirrors to make sure you are not being followed.
- Choose well lighted parking lots or garages near heavily-traveled walkways, streets, and businesses for greater visibility.
- Park at the ground level to avoid using stairs or elevators.
- Do not park next to suspicious vans, trucks, dumpsters, or other places where a carjacker may be hiding.
- Before exiting your car, look around to become aware of your surroundings and potential places where a criminal could hide.

## IF YOUR CAR IS STOLEN, CALL "911"

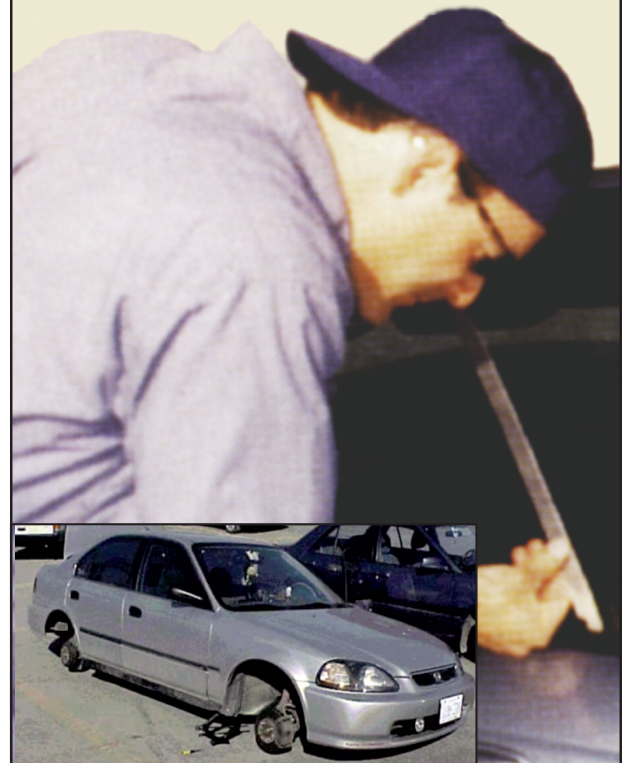
Cell phone users should program the Long Beach Police phone number (562) 435-6711 for incidents occurring in Long Beach.

For further information regarding this brochure, or for other crime prevention material, call or write to:



**Long Beach Police Department**  
**Community Relations Division**  
**Crime Prevention Unit**  
100 Long Beach Boulevard  
Long Beach CA 90802  
(562) 570-7215

# Don't Let Your Car Be Stolen!



**Long Beach**  
**Police Department**

# YOU CAN PREVENT AUTO THEFT!

**One vehicle is stolen every 20 seconds in the United States. Stolen cars, vans, trucks and motorcycles cost victims time and money - and increase insurance premiums. Stolen vehicles are often used to commit other crimes. Most cars are stolen by amateurs who can be deterred by utilizing some of the following prevention techniques.**

- Some insurance companies offer rate discounts for vehicles with anti-theft devices. Check with your insurance agent for details.
- Many car thieves break into cars to steal personal identification paperwork and use this information to commit identity theft. Don't leave anything in your vehicle with personal identification on it such as checkbooks, credit cards, ID cards and social security numbers. Carry your vehicle registration and insurance card in your wallet or purse.
- If your vehicle license plates are lost or stolen, report it to the police department. Thieves will take plates from another car and place them on a stolen car to avoid detection.
- Many car thieves steal vehicles for the sole purpose of getting the expensive after-market wheels. These wheels can be worth thousands of dollars each on the black market. Since owners of these vehicles often invest in high-tech alarm systems and keep an eye on their vehicle, thieves have resorted to carjacking these vehicles. If you have expensive accessories on your vehicle, you have an increased risk of carjacking.



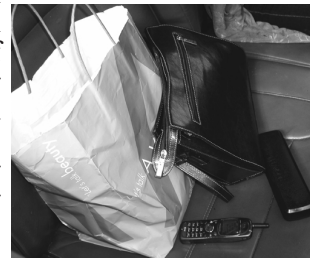
## Park Carefully

- Park in well lighted areas whenever possible.
- Turn your wheels toward the curb.
- If you park in an attended lot or valet park, leave the ignition/door key only.
- If possible, park your car in a lot where you do not have to leave your keys.
- Do not leave your car in an unattended lot for an extended period of time.
- If your car is rear-wheel drive, back into the driveway or parking space, otherwise park front end first.
- Always use your emergency brake.
- Park in a garage whenever possible and lock the car and garage doors.



## Lock Up

- Never leave your car running, even if you will only be gone for a short time.
- Lock the car doors and take the keys with you even if you are making a "quick stop."
- Roll the windows up all the way and secure the vent or wind-wing windows.
- Lock the trunk or tailgate.
- Remove valuables such as cellular phones, stereos, and gift wrapped packages, or lock them in the trunk.
- Never leave a "hidden key" on your vehicle.
- Never leave an identification tag on your key ring. If your keys are lost or stolen, this could help a thief locate your car or burglarize your home.



## Use Anti Theft Devices



- **Ignition kill switch** - an inexpensive toggle switch attached to the ignition or starter wire
- **Fuel kill switch** - a valve that prevents the flow of fuel
- **Steering wheel lock** - prevents the steering wheel from being turned
- **Floorboard lock** - disables the gas or break pedal
- **Gearshift lock**- disables shifting of the transmission
- **Tire/wheel lock** - wraps around the wheel and prevents the vehicle from moving
- **Hood lock** - prevents the thief from gaining access to the security system and battery
- **Armored collar around the steering column**- protects the column and ignition
- **Alarm system** - sounds when a door, hood, or trunk is opened. Optional equipment includes glass, motion, tampering, and towing sensors.
- **Vehicle tracking** - silent transmitter hidden in the car enables police to track the car after it is reported stolen